

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 8-13, 22, 23 and 25 as follows. A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims are provided below.

1-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A multiple stage pump for use in a hydraulically controlled fuel injector system, comprising:

at least two pumps; and

at least two ~~valve~~-means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control of fluid from the at least two pumps, respectively, the at least two ~~valve~~-means being ~~downstream~~upstream from the at least two pumps in a respectively same line as the at least two pumps, wherein the at least two ~~valve~~-means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control includes:

a first check valve ~~downstream~~upstream from a first pump of the at least two pumps and a first ~~valve~~means of the at least two ~~valves~~-means, and

a second check valve upstream from a second pump of the at least two pumps and a second ~~valve~~means of the at least two ~~valves~~-means.

9. (original) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, further comprising a merged line ~~downstream~~upstream from the at least two ~~valve~~-means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control.

10. (withdrawn) The multiple stage pump of claim 9, wherein the at least two ~~valve~~ means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control are control valves, flow valves or on/off valves.

11. (withdrawn) The multiple stage pump of claim 9, wherein the at least two ~~valve~~ means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control are pressure regulated valves.

12. (withdrawn) The multiple stage pump of claim 9, wherein the at least two ~~valve~~ means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control are pressure relief valves.

13. (currently amended) The multiple stage pump of claim 9, wherein the at least two ~~valve~~ means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control are each a set of valves.

14.-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, wherein the at least two ~~valve~~ means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control maintains a steady state control of the fluid pressure of the at least two pumps.

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23. (currently amended) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, wherein the at least two ~~valve~~ means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control ~~additional~~additionally includes:

- a first valve in fluid communication with the first pump;
- a second valve in fluid communication with the second pump;
- a first set of valves positioned in line with first pump; and
- a second set of valves positioned in line with the second pump.

24. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 23, wherein:

the first set of valves are a first governing throttle valve in fluid communication with a first pressure control valve,

the second set of valves are a second governing throttle valve in fluid communication with a second pressure control valve,

and a pressure delta in the first and second governing throttle valves control the flow through the first and second pressure control valves, respectively.

25. (currently amended) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, wherein the at least two ~~valve~~ means for regulating and maintaining a linear flow control maintain a constant pressure within a merged line ~~downstream~~upstream from the at least two pumps.

26. (previously presented) The multiple stage pump of claim 8, wherein the linear flow control is maintained over different pumping stages.